

A Perspective View of the Town of CHAGRE and Castle of SAN LORENZO, as attacked and reduced by the BRITISH SQUADRON under the Command of Vice-Adm. VERNON 1740



A The Castle of San Lorenzo. B A Fort House. C Town of Chagré. D Small Port for Ships. E Two Guarda Costa Sloops. F The Custom House. G Steps up to the Castle cut in the Rock. H A Port at the foot of the Hill to defend the entrance of the River. I Two Batteries for a further defence. K A Rock appearing only at low tides. L The Harbour. M The Harbour. N The Harbour. O The Harbour. P The Harbour. Q The Harbour. R The Harbour. S The Harbour. T The Harbour. U The Harbour. V The Harbour. W The Harbour. X The Harbour. Y The Harbour. Z The Harbour. AA The Harbour. AB The Harbour. AC The Harbour. AD The Harbour. AE The Harbour. AF The Harbour. AG The Harbour. AH The Harbour. AI The Harbour. AJ The Harbour. AK The Harbour. AL The Harbour. AM The Harbour. AN The Harbour. AO The Harbour. AP The Harbour. AQ The Harbour. AR The Harbour. AS The Harbour. AT The Harbour. AU The Harbour. AV The Harbour. AW The Harbour. AX The Harbour. AY The Harbour. AZ The Harbour. BA The Harbour. BB The Harbour. 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## An Account of the taking of the Castle of Chagre, called Castillo de San Lorenzo, formerly by Captain MORGAN, and lately by Admiral VERNON; with a Description of the Castle.

The taking of the Castle of SAN LORENZO in 1669, by Captain MORGAN, afterwards Sir HENRY MORGAN, and Deputy-Governor of Jamaica.

CAPTAIN Morgan after the taking of Porto Bello in 1668, having promised to pay a Visit to the President of Panama the next Year, resolved to keep his Word with him; accordingly in 1669 he fitted out a Fleet of 37 Sail, carrying from 22 Guns downwards to 4, which the smallest carried, with 2000 fighting Men, besides Sailors and Boys. Yet being willing to conceal his Design as much as he could, he bent his Force first against the Island of Santa Catalina or Providence on the Coast of Nicaragua; which having recovered chiefly by the Treachery of the Governor, he ordered 4 Ships and 1 Boat with 400 Men, under the Command of Captain Bradley, (a Person famous among the Buccaneers) as Vice-Admiral, to fail for the River of Chagre, and reduce the Castle of San Lorenzo, which was absolutely necessary for opening a Way to Panama and securing his Retreat. He thought that if he appeared with his whole Fleet the Spaniards might suspect his farther Design on Panama, tho' it seems they were apprized thereof some time before by a Defector from the Fleet at Rio de la Hacha, where they took in Water. The Ships in 3 Days after their departure arrived within Sight of the Castle of San Lorenzo. This Castle was built on the top of a high Hill at the Entrance of the River Chagre, on the East side, and surrounded with Pallisades so well terraced or filled with Earth, that they were as strong as the best Wall of either Brick or Stone. The top of this Hill is divided as it were into two parts; between which lay a Ditch of 30 Foot deep, covered with a Draw-Bridge for going into the Castle, which had but one Entrance. On the Land side it had 4 Batteries, that towards the Sea having but two more. On the South-side it was wholly inaccessible on account of the extreme steepness of the Hill, the North-side whereof was encompassed by the River, which in this part is very broad. At the Foot of the Hill stood a strong Fort, with 8 Cannons, which commanded the Mouth of the River; and farther to defend the Entrance, a little lower were 2 other Batteries, each mounted with 6 Pieces of Cannon. At one End of the Castle were 2 great Store-Houses filled with all sorts of Warlike Ammunition, brought from the inland Parts; and near these Store-Houses a high Pair of Stairs hewn out of the Rock, by which they ascended to the top of the Castle. On the West-side of this Fort was a small Port, not over 7 or 8 Fathom in depth, but very fit for small Vessels, and affording good Anchorage. Besides, there lies at the Entrance of the River a great Rock, scarce to be perceived above Water unless at low Tides. No sooner were the Ships descried by the Spaniards, but they began to fire at them continually with the biggest of their Guns, but they did no Damage to the Vessels, which came to an Anchor in a small Port about a League from the Castle. Next Morning very early they landed, and marched through the Woods to attack it on that side, but the Way was so difficult and full of Mire, that it was two in the Afternoon before they could get thither; what was worse, the Road in the Approach lying near the Castle, and being quite open without any Shelter, they at first lost many of their Men by the Shot from thence, to which they were wholly exposed. This perplexed them greatly, nor could they tell what Course to take, since they were under a Necessity of making the Attack on that side; where being uncovered from Head to Foot, they could not advance one Step without Danger. Besides the Castle appeared so strong, as well from its Situation as Fortifications, that they began to doubt much of the Success of the Enterprize. But to give it over they durst not, lest they should be reproached and scorned by their Companions. At last, after many Debates upon the Occasion, they resolved to Hazard their Lives desperately in the Assault: accordingly they advanced towards the Castle with their Swords in one Hand and Fire-balls in the other, while the Spaniards fired at them continually both with their Guns and Muskets, crying out all the Time, *Come on ye English Dogs, Enemies to God and our King: Let your other Companions who are behind come on too; ye shall not go to Panama this Bout.* The Buccaneers having made some Trial to scale the Walls, were forced to retreat and rest till Night; which being come, they returned to the Attack to see if by help of their Fire-balls they could not prevail and break down the Pallisades. While they were attempting this Work, there happened a remarkable Accident to which their Success may be chiefly attributed: for one of the Besiegers having been wounded in the Back with an Arrow, which pierced him through the Body and came out at the Side of his Breast, he with great Courage instantly plucked it out, and thrusting it into his Musket with a little Cotton wrapped about it, shot it back towards the Castle, the Cotton kindling in the Discharge, and the Arrow alighting on a House thatched with Palm Leaves, (whereof there were 2 or 3 in the Castle) set them on Fire, which, meeting with a Parcel of Gun-powder before the Spaniards perceived it, blew the same up, and did a great deal of Mischief. This threw the Besieged into a terrible Consternation; and while they were busy'd in extinguishing the Flames (which they were the more puzzled how to do for want of Water) the Buccaneers took the Opportunity and set Fire to the Pallisades at several Places at once. This much increased the Astonishment of the Spaniards, who now saw it blazing about them on all sides; and as the Pales burned down the Earth fell in Heaps into the Ditch and made several Breaches in the Wall: over which the English climbed in Spight of all the Opposition given them by those left to defend it, who cast down upon them stink-Pots filled with combustible Matter, whereby many of the Assaulters were destroyed. Before Midnight the Pallisades were intirely burned down, notwithstanding the utmost Endeavours of the Spaniards to prevent it; which the English taking Advantage of, altho' the Fire was great they would creep on the Ground as nigh to it as they could, and shoot through the Flames against the Spaniards they could perceive on the other side, and thus killed many on the Walls. When Day appeared they found the moveable Earth that lay betwixt the Pales almost all fallen into the Ditch, so that those within the Castle lay in a manner equally exposed as themselves; which giving the Besiegers a greater Advantage than ever, they killed a great Number of Spaniards: for the Governor had ordered them not to leave those Parts where the Ditch was most filled with Earth, and caused the Artillery to be carried to the Breaches. Thus, altho' the Walls were so much demolished, the Spaniards still continued firing at the English, who to put a stop to it kept shooting incessantly at them. One part was employed wholly in this Service, while another was commanded to watch every Motion of the Spaniards, and take all Advantages against them. At length about Noon the English happened to gain a Breach, defended by the Governor himself with 24 Soldiers, who made a most courageous Resistance with Muskets, Pikes, Swords and even

1200 Men for Panama, which having taken and plundered, he returned on the 9th of March following to the Castle of San Lorenzo, from whence he sent a great Boat to Porto Bello, demanding a considerable Ransom for the same, threatening otherwise to destroy it. The Answer was, they would not give one Farthing, and that the English might do with it what they pleased. Hereupon Captain Morgan having ordered the Cannon to be carried on Board his Ship, he caused the greater part of the Walls to be demolished, the Buildings burned, and as many other Things ruin'd, as the shortness of time would permit. After which he set Sail privately for Jamaica, leaving most part of the Fleet behind in great discontent at the Dividend of the Booty, the Bulk of which they said he concealed and carried off: which dishonest Action, if Fact, fully the Glory of the Enterprize.

The taking of the Castle of San Lorenzo, on the 24th of March, 1739-40, by Vice-Admiral VERNON, as Published by Authority. Whitehall, June 29, 1740.

THIS Day Mr Thomas, Purser of his Majesty's Ship the *Stratford*, arrived here with Letters from Vice-Admiral Vernon, dated at Porto Bello April 5, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, with the following Account, viz.

That on the 25th of February last, He sailed from Port Royal in Jamaica with a Squadron of his Majesty's Ships [in all 13, including 2 Bomb Ketches, 2 Fire-Ships and 3 Tenders,] and having a favourable Wind got Sight of the High Land of Santa Martha on the Spanish Main the 1st of March; That he ordered Captain Windham in the *Greenwich* to ply up in the Night, and lie to Windward of the Port, for intercepting any thing that might be coming in there the next Day, and himself bore away with an easy Sail for Carthagena; That the 3d at Noon he was joined by the *Falmouth*, Capt. Douglas, off Point Cana, and that Evening anchored with the Squadron before Carthagena in nine Fathom Water, in the open Bay called Playa Grande, and on the 6th he ordered in all the Bomb Ketches, and the small Ships and Tenders for covering and assisting them, and continued Bombarding till nine in the Morning; That the Squadron received no Damage from the Town, but the Shells fell into the Town pretty successfully, particularly into the principal Church, the Jesuits College, the Custom-House, and beat down several Houses between them, and a Shell that fell into the South Bastion, silenc'd a Battery of 10 Guns there for a long Time; that he drew off his Bomb-Ketches and small Craft on the 9th, and weighed with the Squadron on the 10th in the Morning, and making the Signal for the Line of Battle, he coasted the Shore towards Boca chica; that they fired at him from the three small Castles without Boca chica, but none of their Shot reached him; And that having left the *Windsor*, Capt. Berkeley, and the *Greenwich* Capt. Windham, to cruise off the Port of Carthagena for 20 Days, he made Sail for Porto Bello, to repair the Damages the small Craft had received, and on the 14th anchored with his Squadron in Porto Bello Harbour, detaching his Cruisers from time to time to lie off Chagre to block up the Enemy; and having got his Ships watered, put to Sea on the 22d with his Squadron, except the *Louisa* and *Falmouth*, which had not compleated their Watering, but had his Orders to hasten it and follow him: but an Accident in the Fore top-fall Yard of his Ship the *Stratford* retarding her Progress, he ordered Capt. Herbert in the *Norwich* to make all the Sail he could in before him with the Bomb Ketches and all the Fireships and Tenders under his Orders, and Capt. Knowles, as Engineer on Board the Bomb-Ketches for placing them to play on the Castle, and to cover them with his own Ship and the rest. That Capt. Knowles got to an Anchor by Three in the Afternoon, and began Bombarding and cannonading that Evening; and by Ten o'Clock at Night he got also to an Anchor with his own Ship the *Stratford*, and the *Falmouth* and Prince's *Louisa* that followed him the same Night, and continued Bombarding and cannonading with three Ships, firing leisurely only from their lower Tier till Eleven o'Clock on Monday the 24th, when the Spaniards hung out a Flag of Truce from the Fort, and he answered it from his own Ship, and stop'd all Firing as soon as possible, and sent Capt. Knowles on Shore, who soon returned with the Governor; to whom having granted the Capitulation hereto subjoined, he sent him a Shore again with Capt. Knowles, whom he appointed Governor of the Castle for his Majesty, and sent a Garrison along with him of five Lieutenants and 120 Men, and all the Boats of the Fleet to land them, and by Three o'Clock that Afternoon Capt. Knowles entered the Fort with his Garrison. The same Evening Capt. Knowles sent and placed a Guard upon the Custom-House on the opposite Side of the River Chagre, and Vice-Admiral Vernon went on Shore himself by Day-break the next Morning to give all necessary Orders, and found the Custom-House full of Goods for the Lading of the Gallions, such as Guayaquil Cocoa, Jesuits Bark, and Spanish Wool; and gave immediate Orders for their being Ship'd off. The Number of Serons and Bags of the said mentioned Goods amounted to 4300; That the two *Guarda Costa* Sloops in the River (which were all the *Guarda Costa* that were left in those Parts) were sunk just above the Custom-House, Carpenters having been ordered to break up their Decks and entirely destroy them. The Custom-House being entirely cleared by Friday the 28th, was filled with combustible Matter of the Neighbouring Huts, and set on Fire that Evening, and it burnt with great Fierceness all that Night. On the 29th in the Morning, the Brass Cannon being embarked, which were 11 Guns and 11 Paterrocks, and a good Part of the Garrison, the Mines were sprung under the lower Bastion which entirely demolish'd it. Then two Mines were sprung to blow up some of the upper Parts of the Works; and afterwards all the inner Buildings of the Castle were set on Fire, and were burning all the Night on the 29th. On the 30th Vice-Admiral Vernon put to Sea with his Squadron, and on the 1st of April in the Evening got to the Mouth of the Harbour of Porto Bello, and was joined there by the *Windsor* and *Greenwich* just returned from their Cruise off Carthagena; and on the 3d was joined also by the *Burford*, which he had left at Jamaica to be repaired.

Articles of Capitulation granted by Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West Indies, to Don Juan Carlos Gutierrez de Zauollos, Captain of the Fort, and Castillans of the Castle of St Lorenzo, at the Mouth of the River Chagre.

I. That upon his Britannick Majesty's Troops being put into immediate Possession of the Fort St Lorenzo at the Mouth of the River Chagre, the said Castillans and all his Garrison be at free Liberty to March out without any Molestation, and may retire into the Village of Chagre, or where else they please.

II. That the said Castillans and Garrison shall be allowed to take with them all the small Arms, and such other

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which lay a Ditch of 30 Foot deep, covered with a Draw-Bridge for going into the Castle, which had but one Entrance. On the Land side it had 4 Bastions, that towards the Sea having but two more. On the South-side it was wholly inaccessible on account of the extreme steepness of the Hill, the North-side whereof was encompassed by the River, which in this part is very broad. At the Foot of the Hill stood a strong Fort, with 8 Cannons, which commanded the Mouth of the River; and farther to defend the Entrance, a little lower were 2 other Batteries, each mounted with 6 Pieces of Cannon. At one End of the Castle were 2 great Store-Houses filled with all sorts of Warlike Ammunition, brought from the Inland Parts; and near these Store-Houses a high Pair of Stairs hewn out of the Rock, by which they ascended to the top of the Castle. On the West-side of this Fortrefs was a small Port, not over 7 or 8 Fathom in depth, but very fit for small Vessels, and affording good Anchorage. Besides, there lies at the Entrance of the River a great Rock, scarce to be perceived above Water unless at low Tides.

No sooner were the Ships descried by the Spaniards, but they began to fire at them continually with the biggest of their Guns, but they did no Damage to the Vessels, which came to an Anchor in a small Port about a League from the Castle. Next Morning very early they landed, and marched through the Woods to attack it on that side, but the Way was so difficult and full of Mire, that it was two in the Afternoon before they could get thither; what was worse, the Road in the Approach lying near the Castle, and being quite open without any Shelter, they at first lost many of their Men by the Shot from thence, to which they were wholly exposed. This perplexed them greatly, nor could they tell what Course to take, since they were under a Necessity of making the Attack on that side; where being uncovered from Head to Foot, they could not advance one Step without Danger. Besides the Castle appeared so strong, as well from its Situation as Fortifications, that they began to doubt much of the Success of the Enterprize. But to give it over they durst not, lest they should be reproached and scorned by their Companions.

At last, after many Debates upon the Occasion, they resolved to Hazard their Lives desperately in the Assault: accordingly they advanced towards the Castle with their Swords in one Hand and Fire-balls in the other, while the Spaniards fired at them continually both with their Guns and Muskets, crying out all the Time, *Come on ye English Dogs, Enemies to God and our King: Let your other Companions who are behind come on too; ye shall not go to Panama this Bout.* The Bucaniers having made some Trial to scale the Walls, were forced to retreat and rest till Night; which being come, they returned to the Attack to see if by help of their Fire-balls they could not prevail and break down the Pallisades. While they were attempting this Work, there happened a remarkable Accident to which their Success may be chiefly attributed: for one of the Besiegers having been wounded in the Back with an Arrow, which pierced him through the Body and came out at the Side of his Breast, he with great Courage instantly plucked it out, and thrusting it into his Musket with a little Cotton wraped about it, shot it back towards the Castle, the Cotton kindling in the Discharge, and the Arrow alighting on a House thatched with Palm Leaves, (whereof there were 2 or 3 in the Castle) set them on Fire, which, meeting with a Parcel of Gun-powder before the Spaniards perceived it, blew the same up, and did a great deal of Mischief. This threw the Besieged into a terrible Consternation; and while they were busy'd in extinguishing the Flames (which they were the more puzzled how to do for want of Water) the Bucaniers took the Opportunity and set Fire to the Palisades at several Places at once. This much encreased the Astonishment of the Spaniards, who now saw it blazing about them on all sides; and as the Pales burned down the Earth fell in Heaps into the Ditch and made several Breaches in the Wall: over which the English climbed in Spight of all the Opposition given them by those left to defend it, who cast down upon them stink-Pots filled with combustible Matter, whereby many of the Assaultants were destroyed.

Before Midnight the Palisades were intirely burned down, notwithstanding the utmost Endeavours of the Spaniards to prevent it; which the English taking Advantage of, altho' the Fire was great they would creep on the Ground as nigh to it as they could, and shoot through the Flames against the Spaniards they could perceive on the other side, and thus killed many on the Walls. When Day appeared they found the moveable Earth that lay betwixt the Pales almost all fallen into the Ditch, so that those within the Castle lay in a manner equally exposed as themselves; which giving the Besiegers a greater Advantage than ever, they killed a great Number of Spaniards: for the Governor had ordered them not to leave those Parts where the Ditch was most filled with Earth, and caused the Artillery to be carried to the Breaches.

Thus, altho' the Walls were so much demolished, the Spaniards still continued firing at the English, who to put a stop to it kept shooting incessantly at them. One part was employed wholly in this Service, while another was commanded to watch every Motion of the Spaniards, and take all Advantages against them. At length about Noon the English happened to gain a Breach, defended by the Governor himself with 25 Soldiers, who made a most courageous Resistance with Muskets, Pikes, Swords and even Stones. Yet through all these Weapons the Besiegers forced their Way, till at length they gained the Castle. The Spaniards seeing them enter, cast themselves Head-long from the top of the Hill into the Sea, choosing rather to die that Death than ask Quarter. The Governor intending still to defend himself, retreated to the *Corps du Garde*, before which were placed 2 Pieces of Cannon: but at last he was killed with a Musket-shot in the Head; whereon the rest surrendered and were made Prisoners, to the Number of 30 Men, who were all that remained out of 314 in Garrison; and of those 30 scarce 10 were unwounded, nor was there one Officer left alive: which, it must be confessed, was a surprizing Resistance for Spaniards.

The taking of this Castle cost the Bucaniers very dear: for they lost above 100 Men, besides 70 Wounded, which was a great Number in comparison of what they used to lose at other times. Nay 400 of them took *Porto Bello* the Year before, and all the Castles with less difficulty.

The Captain having had Notice of the taking of the Castle hastened to the *Chagre* with all his Fleet; which were so over-joyed at seeing the English Colours put forth thereon, that not minding their Way into the River, 4 of their Ships (among which the Captain's was one) ran upon the Rock before mentioned and were lost: but the Men and Goods were all saved.

There were still in the River some Spanish Vessels called *Chatten*, which serve for transporting Merchandizes up and down it, and to go to *Porto Bello* and *Nicaragua*. They are commonly mounted with 2 great Iron Guns and 4 small Brass ones. These they seized on, together with 4 small Ships and all the Cannon. After which Captain Morgan leaving a Garrison of 500 Men in the Castle (somewhat repaired by the Prisoners) and 150 on Board the Ships, set out on the 8th of August, at the Head of

away with an easy Sail for *Carthagena*; That the 3d at Noon he was joined by the *Falmouth*, Capt. *Douglas*, off *Point Canoa*, and that Evening anchored with the Squadron before *Carthagena* in nine Fathom Water, in the open Bay called *Playa Grande*, and on the 6th he ordered in all the Bomb Ketches, and the small Ships and Tenders for covering and assisting them, and continued Bombarding till nine in the Morning; That the Squadron received no Damage from the Town, but the Shells fell into the Town pretty successfully, particularly into the principal Church, the Jesuits College, the Custom-House, and beat down several Houses between them, and a Shell that fell into the South Bastion, silenc'd a Battery of 10 Guns there for a long Time; that he drew off his Bomb-Ketches and small Craft on the 9th, and weighed with the Squadron on the 10th in the Morning, and making the Signal for the Line of Battle, he coasted the Shore towards *Boca chica*; that they fired at him from the three small Castles without *Boca chica*, but none of their Shot reached him; And that having left the *Windsor*, Capt. *Berkeley*, and the *Greenwich* Capt. *Windham*, to cruise off the Port of *Carthagena* for 20 Days, he made Sail for *Porto Bello*, to repair there the Damages the small Craft had received, and on the 14th anchored with his Squadron in *Porto Bello* Harbour, detaching his Cruizers from time to time to lie off *Chagre* to block up the Enemy; and having got his Ships watered, put to Sea on the 22d with his Squadron, except the *Louisa* and *Falmouth*, which had not compleated their Watering, but had his Orders to hasten it and follow him: but an Accident in the Fore-top-sail Yard of his Ship the *Strafford* retarding her Progress, he ordered Capt. *Herbert* in the *Norwich* to make all the Sail he could in before him with the Bomb Ketches and all the Fireships and Tenders under his Orders, and Capt. *Knowles*, as Engineer on Board the Bomb-Ketches for placing them to play on the Castle, and to cover them with his own Ship and the rest. That Capt. *Knowles* got to an Anchor by Three in the Afternoon, and began bombarding and cannonading that Evening; and by Ten o'Clock at Night he got also to an Anchor with his own Ship the *Strafford*, and the *Falmouth* and Princess *Louisa* that followed him the same Night, and continued bombarding and cannonading with three Ships, firing leisurely only from their lower Tier till Eleven o'Clock on Monday the 24th, when the Spaniards hung out a Flag of Truce from the Fort, and he answered it from his own Ship, and stop't all Firing as soon as possible, and sent Capt. *Knowles* on Shore, who soon returned with the Governor; to whom having granted the Capitulation hereto subjoined, he sent him a Shore again with Capt. *Knowles*, whom he appointed Governor of the Castle for his Majesty, and sent a Garrison along with him of five Lieutenants and 120 Men, and all the Boats of the Fleet to land them, and by Three o'Clock that Afternoon Capt. *Knowles* entered the Fort with his Garrison. The same Evening Capt. *Knowles* sent and placed a Guard upon the Custom-House on the opposite Side of the River *Chagre*, and Vice-Admiral *Vernon* went on Shore himself by Day-break the next Morning to give all necessary Orders, and found the Custom-House full of Goods for the Lading of the Galleons, such as Guayaquil Cocoa, Jesuits Bark, and Spanish Wool; and gave immediate Orders for their being Ship'd off. The Number of Serons and Bags of the said mentioned Goods amounted to 4300; That the two *Guarda Costa* Sloops in the River (which were all the *Guarda Costa* that were left in those Parts) were sunk just above the Custom-House, Carpenters having been ordered to break up their Decks and entirely destroy them. The Custom-House being entirely cleared by Friday the 28th, was filled with combustible Matter of the Neighbouring Huts, and set on Fire that Evening, and it burnt with great Fircenels all that Night. On the 29th in the Morning, the Brass Cannon being embarked, which were 11 Guns and 11 Patereroes, and a good Part of the Garrison, the Mines were sprung under the lower Bastion which entirely demolish'd it. Then two Mines were sprung to blow up some of the upper Parts of the Works; and afterwards all the inner Buildings of the Castle were set on Fire, and were burning all the Night on the 29th. On the 30th Vice-Admiral *Vernon* put to Sea with his Squadron, and on the 1st of April in the Evening got to the Mouth of the Harbour of *Porto Bello*, and was joined there by the *Windsor* and *Greenwich* just returned from their Cruise off *Carthagena*; and on the 3d was joined also by the *Burford*, which he had left at *Jamaica* to be repaired.

*Articles of Capitulation granted by Edward Vernon, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the West Indies, to Don Juan Carlos Gutierrez de Zauollos, Captain of the Fort, and Castillano of the Castle of St Lorenzo, at the Mouth of the River Chagre.*

I. That upon his Britannick Majesty's Troops being put into immediate Possession of the Fort *St Lorenzo* at the Mouth of the River *Chagre*, the said *Castillano* and all his Garrison be at free Liberty to March out without any Molestation, and may retire into the Village of *Chagre*, or where else they please.

II. That the Inhabitants of *Chagre* may remain in all Safety in their Houses, under a Promise of Security to their Persons and Houses.

III. That the *Guarda Costa* Sloops be delivered up to the Use of his Britannick Majesty, in the Condition they are, and the King of Spain's Custom-House.

IV. That the Clergy and Churches in the Town of *Chagre* shall be protected and preserved in all their Immunities.

Mr *Thomas*, who brought this Account, left Vice-Admiral *Vernon* on the 25th of April, under the Grand Bar, in his Return to *Jamaica*.

Given under my Hand on Board His Britannick Majesty's Ship the *Strafford*, at Anchor before the River *Chagre*, the 24th of March, 1739.

E. VERNON.

It appears from the above Account that the Admiral found it more difficult to take this Castle than the *Iron Castle* at *Porto Bello*: for he took the latter by cannonading only in three Hours; but he employed both Cannons and Bombs in forcing the former, which yet held out against both, from Saturday at 3 in the Afternoon, till Monday at 11 in the Morning, so that this Exploit is not to be deemed inferior to the other; which is confirmed by the Observation already made, on the difficulty the *Bucaniers* met with: since whose time the Castle, naturally very strong by its Situation, was rebuilt of Stone and more completely fortified than before.

I cannot forbear making another Remark: That the brave Admiral bombarded *Carthagena*, in the very Place, where *Du Pointis* the French Admiral in 1697 could not.

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